

The Rocky Hill Town Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 6, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor Henry Vasel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor Nadine Bell, Councilor Meg Casasanta, Councilor Guy Drapeau, Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Tim Moriarty, Councilor Frank Szeps and Councilor Cathy Vargas. Also present: Town Manager Guy Scaife and Finance Director John Mehr.

Those absent: Councilor Bill MacDonald.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone from the public wished to speak and no one did.

Appointments/Resignations

The Majority Party and Minority Party had none.

Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Meeting – March 16, 2015

Councilor Szeps made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Public Hearing and Meeting of the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Bell and adopted unanimously by those present.

Subcommittee Reports

A. Finance

Councilor Vargas said she had no report for the Finance Committee and their next meeting will be held on April 15, 2015.

B. Public Safety

Deputy Mayor Bell said she had no report for the Public Safety Committee.

C. Government Operations Committee

Deputy Mayor Bell said the Government Operations Committee held a meeting at 6:00 p.m. this evening. They got an update on the Rocky Hill High School Renovate As New project. She had driven by the school this weekend. It is very impressive to see the results and see the building

being constructed. They also had an update on the Stevens School sprinkler project. The Committee made a motion to move the Award of Bid for the school's fire protection and elevator project to the Town Council. The Committee also got an update on the schools' summer projects. The Committee talked about the ADA compliant rubberized ball field, which will be on this evening's agenda later on.

D. Land Acquisition & Farmland Preservation

Councilor Szeps referred to Item VIII. on this evening's agenda, which is for the Executive Session item that the Open Space Land Acquisition and Farmland Preservation Subcommittee is sending to the Town Council for its consideration.

E. Senior Affairs Committee

Councilor Vargas said she had no report for the Senior Affairs Committee and their next meeting will be held on April 20, 2015.

F. Liaison to State Representative and State Senator

Councilor Szeps asked Mayor Vassel to instruct Town Manager Scaife to send letters to State Representative Guerrera and State Senator Doyle asking them to attend a Town Council meeting sometime in the near future. Mayor Vassel asked if this would be for State Representative Guerrera and State Senator Doyle to discuss current events in Rocky Hill and Councilor Szeps said yes.

Consent Agenda

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Moriarty and adopted unanimously by those present.

A. Award of Contract – Engineering Services – ADA Compliant Rubberized Ball Field

Town Council
Resolution
April 6, 2015

Award of Contract – Engineering Services – ADA Handicap Accessible Ball
Field Complex at Elm Ridge Park

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rocky Hill Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a contract to provide Engineering Services for the ADA Handicap Accessible Ball Field Complex at Elm Ridge Park Project with BSC Group – Connecticut, Inc., 300 Winding Brook Drive, Glastonbury, CT at a cost of \$57,300.00. This cost will be charged to a State Grant that the Town is receiving from the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

Report and Recommendation

The subcommittee of Government Operations working on the ADA compliant rubberized ball field at Elm Ridge Park requested RFQ's for engineering services for this project. Eight RFQ's were received by the subcommittee. After staff reviewed, three were selected to be interviewed. After a second round of interviews with the top two candidates, the subcommittee and town staff recommends BSC Group be awarded the contract to provide engineering services for this project.

**B. Award of Contract – Construction Management re: Stevens School Fire Protection/
Elevator Project**

Town Council
Resolution
April 6, 2015

Award of Contract – Construction Management re: Stevens School Fire Protection/
Elevator Project

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rocky Hill Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a contract for Construction Management Services for the Fire Protection and Elevator Installation Project at Stevens School to O & G Industries, Inc., 112 Wall Street, Torrington, CT at a cost of \$140,218.00. This cost will be charged to the Capital Improvement Budget project line (01-950-000-5720) for School Improvements.

Report and Recommendation

A committee of Board of Education members and school staff requested RFQ's for construction management services for the school's summer of 2015 projects. Five responses were received by the committee. All five construction management firms made presentations to the committee. After the presentations, the committee recommended O & G Industries as the construction manager for the summer projects. The selection of O & G Industries was approved by the Board's School Facilities Committee as well as the full Board.

O & G Industries will oversee the installation of the sprinkler system and the elevator at Stevens Elementary School. O & G will work with Friar Associates, the architect, to prepare bid documents, will bid the project, and will provide on-site supervision during the project.

After the motion was voted on, Councilor Moriarty said he thinks they have a really good consultant for the ball field and he thinks they will be happy with what they will be getting. The Councilors agreed.

New Business

A. Town Manager – 2015-16 Proposed Budget Presentation

Town Manager Scaife said hopefully the Town Council and the viewing audience had a chance to review the proposed budget that had gone out last week. This evening, he was going to talk

about what is behind the numbers because he thinks this is really important when they think about where this will take them. He gave a PowerPoint presentation. (Please see the attachment.)

At the end of the presentation, Mayor Vasel said it was very professional. He asked the Councilors if they had any questions. Councilor Moriarty referred to the slide with regards to the proposed revenue and other taxes. He confirmed that some of this is anticipated and not “cast in stone”. Town Manager Scaife said all revenue numbers are assumptions. The tax sales are inevitable. Conservative numbers are being brought forward. Councilor Moriarty said the Town has to approve a budget prior to the State approving anything so he said the situation with the State could also change. Town Manager Scaife said that is true. If the revenue numbers are lowered then a burden will be put on the taxpayer to raise this even more. He feels comfortable that these numbers are good. He thinks the expense budget is “cut to the bone”. They will be putting the efficiency gains in jeopardy for now and in the future if they cut more.

Councilor Moriarty referred to the Dispatch Center at the RHPD. There had been a groundwater issue there when it had been renovated. Water had come through the slab there. They might want to do a moisture test, of which the cost would be minimal, on the lower level floor to see if there is still an issue with groundwater coming through there. There might be moisture problems there and they might still have this problem after they spend money on air conditioning. Mayor Vasel said he had a tour recently of the RHPD and the Dispatch Center gets hot but he told Councilor Moriarty that he understands what he is saying about the moisture. Councilor Moriarty doesn't think the moisture problem will be fixed by them cooling that area down. Mayor Vasel agreed. Councilor Moriarty said the whole Town complex is on fill from what he has been told and it had been a swamp at one time.

Mayor Vasel agreed with Town Manager Scaife that they have unknowns with regards to the State and this is why Councilor Szeps has been trying to get a hold of State Representative Guerrera and State Senator Doyle for some time now. Mayor Vasel said this is why it is important for a letter to get out asking State Representative Guerrera and State Senator Doyle to come to one of the Town Council meetings so that the Town Council and Rocky Hill people can be given an update. Mayor Vasel said he has some concerns also about the numbers.

Deputy Mayor Bell said the presentation was excellent and some of the numbers they looked at for the budget are pretty amazing. She appreciates Town Manager Scaife's effort, as well as the effort that the rest of the Town Staff has put forward to put the budget together this year. Mayor Vasel said this way was a nicer way to have this presented and it shows a lot of work.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Vasel thanked Chief Custer, Officer Raymond and Officer Boucher for giving a tour of the RHPD in honor of Autism Awareness.

The Friends of the Cora J. Belden Library will be having a reception on April 8, 2015, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the library to honor Carole Fisher and Barbara Wysocki for their many years

of dedicated service to this Town. Mayor Vasel wished them well in the future and said all of the work they have done over the years is appreciated.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Scaife said the Town is seeing a lot of activity from an economic standpoint and growth in the building industry. There were ninety permits issued in March and these were for building, electrical and plumbing, etc. It is nice to see this activity.

Town Manager Scaife said the RHPD kicked off a program this past week with regards to trying to remove distracted drivers from the road and they had phenomenal success after two days. This will continue through this month and then again this August. The RHPD stopped one hundred and twelve cars, of which citations were given to the majority of these and warnings were given to the rest. Mayor Vasel asked everyone to please not text and drive.

Town Manager Scaife said the Engineering Staff is beginning to do an inventory of the Town's sidewalks and pavement areas. They will have an updated assessment in a few weeks of where they will be spending money and they will be adjusting the plans that were set previously with regards to the paving program, as well as sidewalk improvements, etc. There will be a map to depict this plan for the coming season.

Councilor Moriarty thanked the RHFD, the RHPD and the Rocky Hill High School Band, on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, for showing up at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hartford.

Executive Session

A. Strategy and Negotiations: Potential Land Acquisition with the Town Manager and Economic Development Director

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. for Strategy and Negotiations – Potential Land Acquisition with the Town Manager and Economic Development Director. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present.

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present.

Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth